

Amendments to the Claims

Please amend Claims 1 and 18 as shown below. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

- 1) (Currently Amended) A two-component device for closing a laceration or incision, comprising:
 - a) a first component comprising a first adhesive-backed anchoring member and one or more first connecting members extending from one edge thereof in a first direction;
 - b) a second component comprising a second adhesive-backed anchoring member and one or more second connecting members extending from one edge thereof in a second direction generally opposite to the first direction; and
 - c) adhesive for attaching the one or more first connecting members to the second anchoring member and adhesive for attaching the one or more second connecting members to the first anchoring member, the attachment of the connecting members to the anchoring members forming attached and bridging portions of the one or more connecting members, the attached portions being attached to an anchoring member, and the bridging portions spanning the over-laceration area between the first and second anchoring members, wherein:
 - i) the adhesive is applied to at least a portion of a lower surface of the connecting members;
 - ii) the lower surface of the bridging portion contains less adhesive than the attached portion; and
 - iii) the lower surface of the bridging portion is substantially free of adhesive.
- 2) (Currently Cancelled) The two-component device of Claim 1 wherein the lower surface of the bridging portion is substantially free of adhesive.
- 3) (Original) The two-component device of Claim 1 further comprising a pulling element attached to the one or more first connecting members, or extensions thereof, and a pulling element attached to the one or more second connecting members, or extensions thereof.

- 4) (Original) The two-component device of Claim 3 wherein the pulling elements and anchoring members are coded to enable user distinction.
- 5) (Original) The two-component device of Claim 3 wherein the pulling elements and extensions of connecting members are removable following application of the device.
- 6) (Original) The two-component device of Claim 4 wherein the coding comprises an observable geometric distinction between the shape of the pulling elements and the shape of the anchoring members.
- 7) (Original) The two-component device of Claim 4 wherein the coding comprises printed indicia enabling user distinction between pulling elements and anchoring members.
- 8) (Original) The two-component device of Claim 4 wherein the coding comprises distinguishing colors.
- 9) (Original) The two-component device of Claim 1 which is produced from a vapor-permeable material.
- 10) (Original) The two-component device of Claim 1 wherein the adhesive-backed surface of each anchoring member is protected by one or more release liners, and the adhesive-backed surface of each connecting member is protected by one or more release liners.
- 11) (Original) The two-component device of Claim 10 wherein the release liners are optionally coded to indicate sequence of removal.
- 12) (Original) The two-component device of Claim 11 wherein the adhesive-backed surfaces of the first and second anchoring members each are protected by a first and a second release liner, the first release liner protecting adhesive-backed surfaces along the edge from which the one or more connecting members extend, and the second release liner protecting the adhesive-backed surfaces along the length of the edge of the anchoring member which is generally opposite the edge from which the one or more connecting members extend.

- 13) (Original) The two-component device of Claim 12 wherein the coding comprises printed indicia enabling user distinction between the first release liner and the second release liner.
- 14) (Original) The two-component device of Claim 12 wherein the coding comprises distinguishing colors between the first release liner and the second release liner.
- 15) (Original) The two-component device of Claim 1 wherein the anchoring members are provided with one or more alignment indicators.
- 16) (Original) The two-component device of Claim 3 wherein the pulling element is reinforced with a pull bar.
- 17) (Original) The two-component device of Claim 1 wherein the anchoring members are reinforced with a wound edge bar.
- 18) (Currently Amended) A method for closing a laceration or incision, the method comprising:
 - a) providing a two-component device for closing a laceration or incision, comprising:
 - i) a first component comprising an adhesive-backed anchoring member and one or more first connecting members extending from one edge thereof in a first direction;
 - ii) a second component comprising a adhesive-backed anchoring member and one or more second connecting members extending from one edge thereof in a second direction generally opposite to the first direction; and
 - iii) adhesive means for attaching the one or more first connecting members to the second anchoring member and means for attaching the one or more second connecting members to the first anchoring member, the attachment of the one or more first connecting members and the one or more second connecting members to the second and first anchoring members, respectively, forming attached and bridging portions of the one or more connecting members, the attached portions being attached to an

anchoring member, and the bridging portions spanning the over-laceration area between the first and second anchoring members, wherein:

- (1) the adhesive is applied to at least a portion of a lower surface of the connecting members;
 - (2) the lower surface of the bridging portion contains less adhesive than the attached portion; and
 - (3) the lower surface of the bridging portion is substantially free of adhesive.
- b) attaching the first and second components to the skin on opposite sides of the laceration or incision, the edge of the first and second components from which the one or more connecting members extend being the edge closest to the laceration or incision;
 - c) closing the laceration or incision by adjusting the position of the first and second anchoring members relative to each other in both an X and a Y dimension; and
 - d) fixing the relationship between the first and second anchoring members established in step c) by attaching the one or more first connecting members to the second anchoring member, and the one or more second connecting members to the second anchoring member.
- 19) (Currently Cancelled) The method of Claim 18 wherein the lower surface of the bridging portion is substantially free of adhesive.
 - 20) (Original) The method of Claim 18 wherein the device further comprises a pulling element attached to the one or more first connecting members, or extensions thereof, and a pulling element attached to the one or more second connecting members, or extensions thereof.
 - 21) (Original) The method of Claim 20 wherein the pulling elements and anchoring members are coded to enable user distinction.
 - 22) (Original) The method of Claim 20 wherein the pulling elements and extensions of connecting members are removable following application of the device.

- 23) (Original) The method of Claim 21 wherein the coding comprises an observable geometric distinction between the shape of the pulling elements and the shape of the anchoring members.
- 24) (Original) The method of Claim 21 wherein the coding comprises printed indicia enabling user distinction between pulling elements and anchoring members.
- 25) (Original) The method of Claim 21 wherein the coding comprises distinguishing colors.
- 26) (Original) The method of Claim 18 wherein the device is produced from a vapor-permeable material.
- 27) (Original) The method of Claim 18 wherein the adhesive-backed surface of each anchoring member is protected by one or more release liners, and the adhesive-backed surface of each connecting member is protected by one or more release liners.
- 28) (Original) The method of Claim 27 wherein the release liners are optionally coded to indicate sequence of removal.
- 29) (Original) The method of Claim 28 wherein the adhesive-backed surfaces of the first and second anchoring members each are protected by a first and a second release liner, the first release liner protecting adhesive-backed surfaces along the edge from which the one or more connecting members extend, and the second release liner protecting the adhesive-backed surfaces along the length of the edge of the anchoring member which is generally opposite the edge from which the one or more connecting members extend.
- 30) (Original) The method of Claim 29 wherein the coding comprises printed indicia enabling user distinction between the first release liner and the second release liner.
- 31) (Original) The method of Claim 29 wherein the coding comprises distinguishing colors between the first release liner and the second release liner.
- 32) (Original) The method of Claim 18 wherein the anchoring members are provided with one or more alignment indicators.

- 33) (Original) The method of Claim 20 wherein the pulling element is reinforced with a pull bar.
- 34) (Original) The method of Claim 18 wherein the anchoring members are reinforced with a wound edge bar.